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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

August 2016

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

With Labor Day arriving, our China community will quiet down dramatically. We will miss the hustle & bustle of all the visitors passing through. This year holds a record for my household. I have never had so many visitors come visit in such a short time! We also had a record number of visitors at our church.



I enjoy the excitement of summer, but look forward to the quiet that comes with the arrival of fall. I enjoy lively worship, especially during holidays. I also enjoy the peaceful worship during ordinary times.

It is interesting to me when someone says to me that traditional worship is boring - they wish it was always as exciting as on holidays. Or that we need the excitement of a rock band during worship. I do enjoy these things on a limited basis, but not every Sunday.

The interesting thing is, when I officiate at a funeral, these same people only want the comfort & peace found in traditional services. There is something soothing & calming about our 2,000-year-old service. It binds us all together throughout the world and throughout time. Now **that's** exciting! - *God's love to all of you, Pastor Paul*



## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

### President's Report:

Greetings and God bless!

"To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice." Proverbs 21:3

Many changes & events have happened, are happening, & there will be more to come!



The Council continues to meet monthly to discuss the finances, education, worship, maintenance, benevolence, & fundraising events for our church.

We have seen some more new faces & we have had some friends leave, either into God's Kingdom or to another location. In an effort to get the word out a little more, we are looking to schedule more events like Pastor Paul's bow making classes, have more community events like the Paul Sullivan concert this past June, a craft fair in October, our traditional turkey pie suppers, etc. If anyone has any ideas about skills they could teach some night or additional fundraising ideas, please see someone on the Council or attend one of our Council meetings. They are held the second Tuesday of every month & begin at 6:30 PM.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

"For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, President*

**Missions & Benevolence:**

Budget: \$2,550.00  
Expenses: \$1,031.65  
Balance \$1,518.35

In April, we received a \$1,000 anonymous donation for the needy. Since the Benevolence Committee had voted to transition our two families to the China Food Pantry for food needs, it was agreed that this donation would go into the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund to be used for the emergency requests he so often receives. As of May, both families stopped receiving monthly food from SCCC & were to use the weekly program at the Food Pantry.

In June, we were saddened to hear of the death of the mother in “Family #1.” The Benevolence Committee approved a check for \$200 to be issued & sent to the Scholarship Fund established for her son at the Camden National Bank.



In June, we sent \$50 to the two teens who were raising funds for the mission trip to El Salvador. An anonymous donor also sent personal

checks to each of the teens. A very heartfelt thank-you note was received from the teens & was read to the congregation.

On July 31<sup>st</sup> we had a “Bring a Can Sunday” to help fill the emergency food container with non-perishable foods that Pastor Paul or Rosie can use for emergency calls.

As announced in the August 7<sup>th</sup> Church Bulletin, we are currently accepting donations (as well as use funds from our M&B budget) to purchase gift certificates for school clothes for the children in Families #1 & #2. Thanks again for your sharing & caring and “God Bless.” - *Glenna Jordan, Deacon/ Benevolence Chair*



**Building & Grounds:**

Operational Budget: \$8,080.00  
Expenses: \$4,576.69  
Income: \$514.25  
Balance: \$4,017.56

Utilities Budget: \$5,250.00  
Expenses: \$2,546.24  
Balance: \$2,703.76

We’ve had a productive summer with the purchase/installation of a new air conditioner, purchase of a new copy machine, landscaping/trimming of shrubs in front of the church, & minor upgrades to the bathrooms. Rather than disposing of the downstairs piano & bench, we will be repairing them for Sunday School use. Please let me know if you have any improvement suggestions or want to volunteer for a project! - *Ron Maxwell, Chair*



**Christian Education:**

Budget: \$50.00  
Expenses: \$0  
Income: \$186.45  
Balance: \$236.45

“Teach me Your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path...” Psalm 27:11

Sunday School will resume the first Sunday in September. The children will continue to listen to scriptures, Bible stories, & have activities relating to the message that Pastor Paul did the week before or will be doing that Sunday. The children will also be doing activities relating to special occasions such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother’s Day & Father’s Day.

I am still hoping to bring some music into the program, but would need all the children there on a regular basis. It would be nice to have the children perform some day.

The rooms are still in need of reorganizing & sorting through materials. The summer has gone by extremely fast! I do have a few new sets of markers & a couple tins of crayons. I should be able to get the cloth & yarn needed for Sunday School from the donation made by Debbie Stowe. Tape, glue, Expo markers & eraser, glitter, whiteout, & other craft items will be purchased before school starts up.

Child Care has gone rather well. A list for the second half of the year was passed out to the volunteers. Another person has also stepped up to help for a couple of weeks & that was greatly appreciated.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."  
Proverbs 22:6 - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, Elder of Christian Education*



### Communications & Outreach:

Budget: \$750.00  
Expenses \$197.40  
Balance \$552.60

Wow, what a great job done by everyone! It is impressive that we have another successful annual rummage sale, cookie walk & chicken BBQ completed for another year. Many hands help us to accomplish a lot.



I am asking for help in making the October Craft Fair a success. If you know of any crafters, please let them know that we are renting tables at \$15. We anticipate having at least one table, if not more, filled with items whose sale will benefit the church. We also hope to

have food available for the crafters & shoppers to buy. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*

### Worship Committee:

Budget: \$500.00  
Expenses: \$357.71  
Income: \$170.00  
Balance: \$312.29

Have we sung your favorite hymn lately? I do keep a list of what hymns we have done & when so that we don't repeat too often. Of course, there are favorites that just can't be resisted! We try to choose a mix of music & occasionally throw in a completely new hymn; some are more successful than others. It's easy to overlook good choices, so please let me know if you have a suggestion.



Many of you have heard Pastor Paul mention the **Common Lectionary**, from which the Scripture passages included in our service are drawn. When I started as Worship Chair, I did not know what it was, so did a bit of research.

Within Christianity, the use of pre-assigned, scheduled readings from the scriptures can be traced back to the early church & seems to have been inherited from Judaism. The Revised Common Lectionary, which is used here, was adopted in 1994 by many churches & many denominations throughout the world. Readings for each Sunday include a passage from the Old Testament, a passage from one of the Psalms, another from the Epistles or Book of Revelation & finally, one from the Gospels. The Lectionary runs in three-year cycles (we are currently in Year C); the gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken from the Gospel of Matthew; those in the second year (Year B) from the Gospel of Mark, & in the third year (Year C), from the Gospel of Luke. Portions of the Gospel of John are read throughout the Easter season & also at other times. The idea behind the lectionary is that in any given year, the writer of one of the first three gospels will be heard from beginning to end. Likewise, the rest of the New Testament is heard, in some cases, virtually in total, in others in large part. (*Note: information from Wikipedia*)

We are very blessed to have this beautiful church & to be able to worship freely. I am always amazed when I think of how many people are involved with the operation of this church. Many, many thanks to those who contribute time, energy & resources! - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*  
**NEW EMAIL:** clbaker818@gmail.com



**Finance & Stewardship:**

**Balances as of 7/31/2016:**

Checkbook	1,358.74
Memorial Fund	61,051.84
Faith Ames Music Fund	2,120.52
Meador Trust	32,320.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$96,851.30</b>

Since July 31, we have had a Turkey Pie Supper, Chicken BBQ, & Rummage Sale, all of which were very successful & brought in some welcome funds. Even still, we are about \$4,000 short of our income goal. We will be having two more turkey pie suppers, one in September & one in October, & Debbie is resurrecting the craft fair to be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Those events should help bring in some more revenue.

We did not use our allotted 6% of the Meador Fund last year, so Ron, who is in charge of Buildings & Grounds, used some of it to buy an air conditioner for the sanctuary. It has been appreciated with the hot summer we have had & will also serve as a dehumidifier for downstairs.

Our expenses are pretty much on target. We have spent about 65% of our budget after eight months, which is just about right. As always, I thank you for your generous support & loyalty to our wonderful church family. - *Respectfully, Finance Chair, Janet Preston*



**A LOOK  
at the  
BUDGET**

*"Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God." - Rev. Billy Graham*

**WEB SITES of INTEREST**

CharityMiles – walking, running or biking  
<http://www.charitymiles.org/>

For uplifting messages & scripture passages:  
<https://www.guideposts.org/spirit-lifters>

<http://positivelifetips.com/>

*Thank you....to Carl & Emily Schroeder for sponsoring the Paul Sullivan concert in early June! The event was well attended & "music to our ears" - literally! For further information on this Grammy-winning pianist/composer, visit his River Music web site at <http://rivermusic.com/>*



**REFLECTIONS & PREDICTIONS**  
**PART III**  
**(The Good News)**

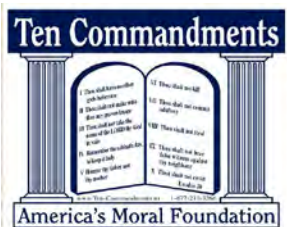
Hear the good news! "In the beginning was God and at the end will be God, and in every moment in between, there is God's creating, redeeming and sustaining us."

How are we to believe the good news? It is through faith. Faith in God, the Son & the Holy Spirit. Untold numbers of people have lost faith for a host of reasons. We need to reverse this trend & return to faith in God. How do we do this? The challenges are many, but I believe the pendulum is starting to come back to a more uplifting life.

*Family:* The backbone of Christian living is now making a slow comeback. We are seeing less single-parent homes & more traditional two-parent homes that love & nurture their children. This can be a big step forward.

*Politics:* We can help change the status quo by asking every candidate for office if he or she is a practicing Christian or a member of any religion with moral values. Do this from candidates running for local town officials to the president of the USA. Now is the time to push forward. We can change the nature of politics from "me" to "we." This will jump start us to becoming a more Christian country.

We must put the brakes on being politically correct. Why let a handful of folks dictate to us where & when we can pray? Where & when we can fly the flag of the United States? What can we as Christians do to improve on the downward slide of society?



*First, obey the Ten Commandments.* (Deuteronomy 5-1-21). We have tens of thousands of laws in this country, but these ten are paramount. I'll call your attention to

the Seventh Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy" (Exodus 31-12-18). You do not have to attend a church every Sunday to be a good Christian, but it can help in a number of ways. Obey & teach the great commandments found in Deuteronomy 6-5-9 & Mark 12-28-31.

*Prayer:* Daily prayers can change everything.

*Love:* As the song says, "they will know we are Christians by our love."

This turnaround may take a few generations, but with God's help & our determination, we will prevail. Remember, teach a child to love before someone else teaches him to hate.

- Sheldon Goodine, Deacon



- † COMMUNION: SEPT 4 - OCT 2 - NOV 6
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
TUESDAYS: SEPT 13 & 27 - OCT 11 & 25 - NOV 8 & 22
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup>  
WEDNESDAY: SEPT 14 - OCT 12 - NOV 9
- † OCT 30, 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY: PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY  
FUND DONATIONS (PDF SUNDAY)
- † SEPT 24: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM  
(DEBBIE STOWE, CHAIR)
- † OCT 1: CRAFT FAIR, 9AM-3PM; TABLES \$15  
EACH
- † OCT 22: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM  
(GLENNA JORDAN, CHAIR)
- † OCTOBER 29: TENTATIVE DATE FOR HALLOWEEN  
PARTY
- † **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: NOV 16, 2016**



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*“Therefore welcome one  
another as Christ has welcomed  
you, for the glory of God.”  
- Romans 15:7*

